

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LUSAKA

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 27225

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER

1. YOU SHOULD PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRIME
MINISTER VORSTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: I WANT TO TAKE
AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME
AND HOSPITALITY YOU GAVE ME IN PRETORIA. MY WIFE ALSO
DEEPLY APPRECIATES THE EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR
HER VISIT AND THE THOUGHTFULNESS OF MRS. VORSTER. IT
GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I BELIEVE WE MADE IMPORTANT
PROGRESS TOWARDS FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR THOSE ISSUES
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO WHICH BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES ATTACH
GREAT IMPORTANCE

I HAVE BEGUN MY TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA WHICH
HAVE BEEN GENERALLY ENCOURAGING NATURALLY, HE BELIEVES
THAT HE MUST CONSULT HIS COLLEAGUES AMONG THE FRONT-LINE
PRESIDENTS WHICH HE HAS APPARENTLY ALREADY INITIATED. AT THIS
POINT I FORESEE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS OVER THE QUESTION
OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA. THE RESPONSE REGARDING RHODESIA WAS
ENCOURAGING BUT LESS CLEAR-CUT. I ANTICIPATE LITTLE OBJECTION TO
THE PROPOSAL FOR A WHITE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE. THE
DESIGNATION OF WHITE MINISTER FOR DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER IS
A MORE DIFFICULT QUESTION. HOWEVER, THE REACTION WAS NOT UNDULY

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HOSTILE. I WILL PROBABLY BE ASKED TO RETURN TO LUSAKA OR DAR

ON WEDNESDAY TO GET AN OFFICIAL REPLY.

3. PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE AFRICAN FEELINGS ABOUT THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES, OUR CONVERSATIONS MAKE IT CLEAR TO ME THAT WHEN IAN SMITH SPEAKS ON FRIDAY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT HE PUT FORWARD STRICTLY THE LANGUAGE OF THE UNDERSTANDING WE REACHED. HE SHOULD OFFER NO EXPLANATIONS OR GRATUITOUS COMMENTARY WHICH COULD BE MISINTERPRETED AND GIVE THE BLACK AFRICAN PRESIDENTS REASON TO REJECT A SETTLEMENT. IF THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER GOES BEYOND THE LANGUAGE WE DISCUSSED, I PREDICT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR UNDERTAKING. YOU AND I HAVE INVESTED TOO MUCH IN POSITIVE OUTCOME TO LET SUCCESS SLIP BY NOW. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR USING YOUR CONTINUING AND CONSTANT INFLUENCE BETWEEN NOW AND FRIDAY TO MAKE SURE THAT MR. SMITH LIVES UP TO THIS PART OF HIS COMMITMENT.

4. IN MY JUDGMENT OUR MEETINGS OVER THE PAST MONTHS HAVE LAID MORE SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA. I LOOK FORWARD TO STAYING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU DURING THE DECISIVE WEEKS THAT LIE AHEAD. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT.
KISSINGER

SECRET

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